

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC AND AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST LEADER COMMENTS ON EUROCOMMUNISM AND
THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS

SUMMARY: SPANISH SOCIALIST (PSOE) LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ, IN A
RECENT INTERVIEW, EXPLAINED WHY HE DOES NOT FAVOR A POPULAR
FRONT WITH THE COMMUNISTS (PCE); TERMED CUROCOMMUNISM A
"TACTICAL EXPERIMENT" THAT DID NOT ALTER THE COMMUNISTS'
BASICALLY TOTALITARIAN NATURE; AND CALLED SWEDISH SOCIALIST
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OLAF PALME THE SOCIALIST LEADER HE FELT MOST ATTRACTED TO.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH WEEKLY "LE POINT" (AS
REPORTED IN CONSERVATIVE "ABC" OF AUGUST 10), PSOE SECGEN
GONZALEZ REPLIED TO QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:
--WHY NOT A POPULAR FRONT?--BECAUSE IT WOULD "DRAMATIZE"

POLITICAL LIFE, BECAUSE IT MIGHT LEAD TO A REORGANIZATION OF THE "FORCES HOSTILE TO A UNION OF THE LEFT;" WE OUGHT TO HAVE PATIENCE AND ACT WITH REALISM, IN ORDER NOT TO COMPROMISE DEMOCRACY, WHICH HAS (IN THE PAST) ALWAYS BEEN A FRAGILE EXPERIENCE FOR US;

--DO YOU BELIEVE IN EUROCOMMUNISM?--EUROCOMMUNISM IS NOTHING MORE THAN A "TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC EXPERIMENT;" SINCE THE COMMUNISTS SPLIT OFF FROM THE SOCIALISTS IN 1921, THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MARKED BY THE MARXIST-LENINIST THESIS OF "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM," BY THE CONCEPTION OF THEIR PARTY AS THE PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS, AND BY REJECTION OF THE PLURALISTIC "GAME" OF THE PARTIES. "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM," IN PARTICULAR, PUTS A LIMIT ON THE CREDIBILITY OF THE COMMUNISTS WHICH "NO COMMUNIST PARTY" HAS SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING. THEY ATTEMPT TO OFFER A DEMOCRATIC MODEL FOR SOCIETY, YET ARE INCAPABLE OF OFFERING SUCH AN EXAMPLE WITHIN THEIR OWN RANKS. IF THE COMMUNISTS "PASS THE RUBICON" OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM SOCIALISTS. BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEIR REASON FOR BEING AS A PARTY WOULD DISAPPEAR;

--TO WHICH SOCIALIST LEADER DO YOU FEEL CLOSEST?--EVEN THOUGH IDEOLOGICALLY I AM CLOSER TO MITTERAND, I AM VERY ATTRACTED TO OLAF PALME; SWEDISH SOCIALISM HAS IN ITS FAVOR MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENTS: AMONG OTHERS, THAT OF HAVING CONSERVED POWER FOR FORTY YEARS.

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2. COMMENT: GONZALEZ'S REITERATION OF HIS OPPOSITION TO A POPULAR FRONT AT THIS TIME, AND HIS EXPLICIT MISTRUST OF COMMUNISM'S TOTALITARIAN TENDENCIES, SHOW NO LET-UP IN THE PSOE DETERMINATION TO LEAVE A CLEAR LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE COMMUNISTS. STABLER

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Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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